

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: N. Tsuchiya et al.

: Art Unit:

Serial No.: To Be Assigned

: Examiner:

Filed: Herewith

For: VACUUM CLEANER

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (R&P) submitted herewith. A copy of each of the listed references is also enclosed.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

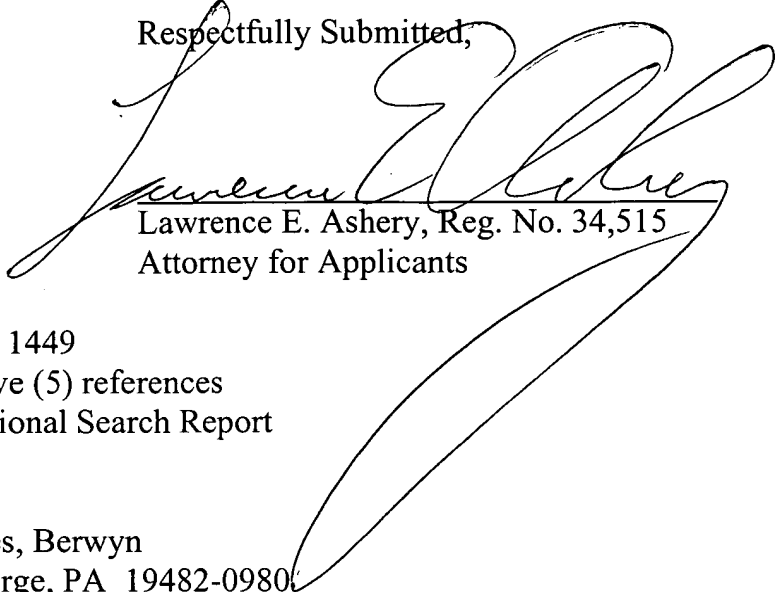
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

Japanese Publication Nos. 57-183942, 07327888, and 09-192056 are not in the English language, but English Abstract translations thereof are attached to the copies of the references submitted herewith. Japanese Publication No. 3067663 is not in the English language, but this reference was cited by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. A copy of the search report,

indicating the degree of relevance determined by the foreign patent office is submitted herewith. MPEP Section 609A(3), second paragraph.

This information disclosure statement is being filed with the above-referenced application. No fee or certification is required. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

Respectfully Submitted,


Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicants

LEA/lm

Enclosures: PTO Form 1449
Copy of five (5) references
JP International Search Report

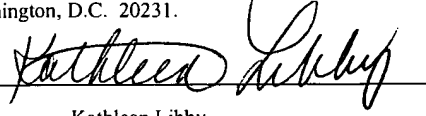
Dated: January 15, 2002

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The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

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Date of Deposit: January 15, 2002

I hereby certify that this paper and fee are being deposited, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 and with sufficient postage, using the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above and that the deposit is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.


Kathleen Libby